

(copy) Roxbury, July 23, 1869.

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My dear friend May:

It is among the pleasantest things that come to me to receive a letter from you at any time; and so I was much gratified to receive yours of the 16th. Of course, it would have been still more gratifying to have seen you during your recent visit to the city; but it would be most unreasonable for me to expect you to come out to Rockledge when your time is so limited, and you have so many things to attend to; and I always feel my indebtedness to you increased whenever you put yourself to the trouble (as you have done repeatedly) to give us a call.

I very much enjoyed my excursion to Walden Pond, (it was the first time I had been there,) first, on account of the convenience and beauty of the location, but more particularly because it was a Parker gathering and festival, and I there met our dearly beloved Samuel J. May, in company with R. W. Emerson and A. B. Alcott, who all made some remarks from the speaker's stand on the occasion.

Day before yesterday, we had the very great pleasure of Mr. May's company at Rockledge; but his engagements prevented his remaining any longer under our roof, much to our regret. Aside from his lameness, he seemed to be in unusually good health and spirits. He read me the chapter of his forthcoming volume, in regard to the pro-slavery position of the American church and clergy during our great struggle; and I was glad to notice how faithful he was in the portraiture he drew. That part of his work will be particularly distasteful to those who, on reading it, will exclaim as others did of old, "So saying, thou reproachest us also;" but they must swallow the bitter pill as best they can. There is no disposition manifested to shield the Unitarian denomination from their share of the general religious criminality concerning the Anti-Slavery movement. Of course,

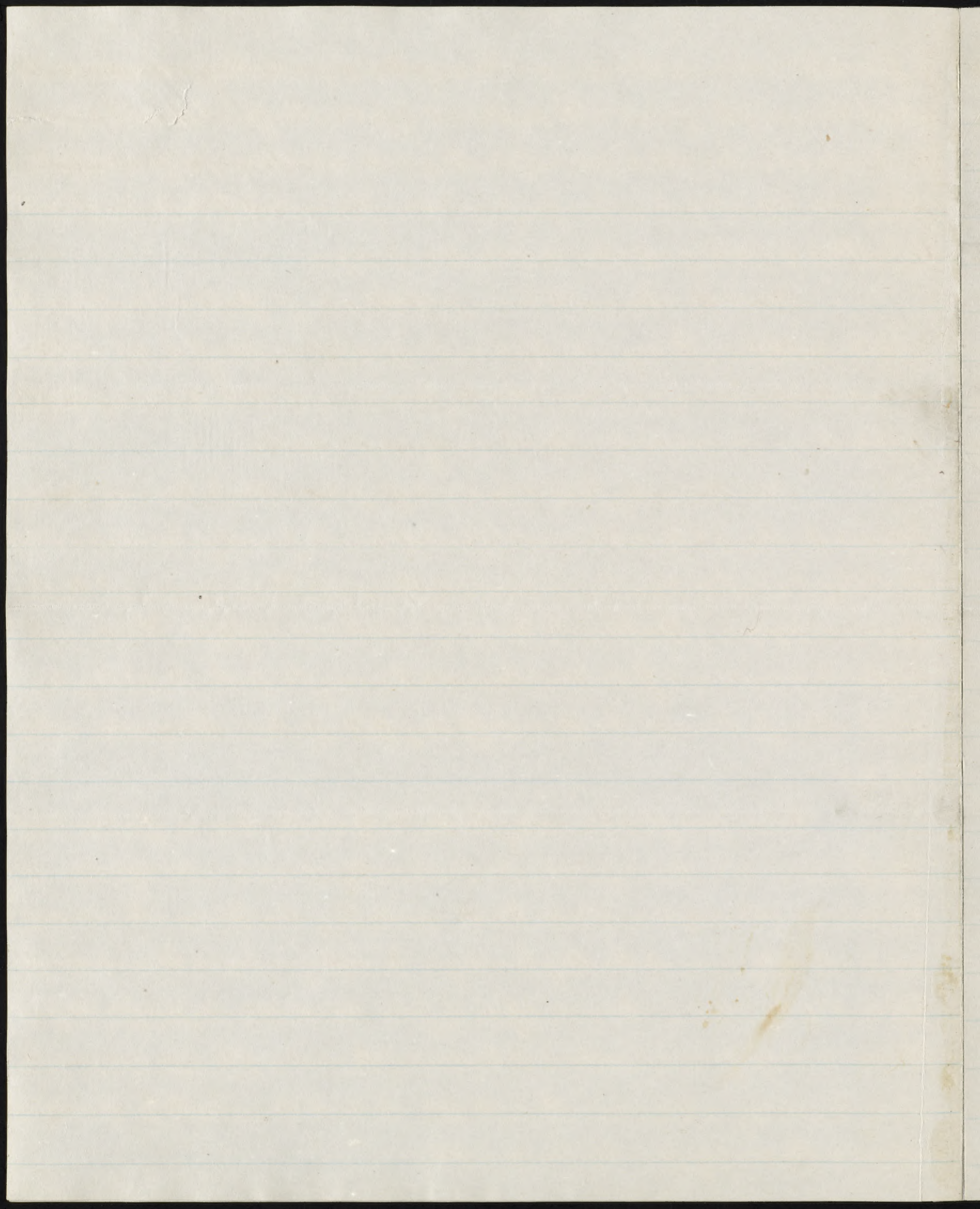
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He gives credit to whom credit is due; and his recognition of your untiring and eminent services in the cause of the oppressed is the simplest act of justice; though he tells me that you wish him to suppress it. That wish, indeed, comports with your characteristic modesty and self-abnegation; but I do not see how, in a fair presentation of the conduct of Unitarians, he could be justified in striking out what he has written about you.

I trust the volume will have a profitable sale—profitable to himself as well as to the publishers. At any rate, I feel much relieved to hear, (though he did not tell me so, and therefore it may not be true,) that they have assumed all the pecuniary risk of the publication, and entered into a liberal arrangement with him.

Next Wednesday I am to be at a Suffrage Convention for Women in Newburyport, and Mr May is to be with me, and to participate in the proceedings. I understand that the Ashbys have written to you to come down and join us; and let me urge you, and Mrs May also, to do so if you can. It will make the occasion all the more delightful. Whittier will doubtless be present, and Julia Ward Howe is to be among the speakers. I wish Lucy Stone could be with us; for I consider her the most effective popular speaker on that question in the country.

I have just finished reading the Rev. Dr. Bushnell's volume in opposition to suffrage for women as "a reform against nature," and my disgust and moral indignation at his treatment of the subject are intense. It will assuredly bring about his ears a hornet's nest, and he will richly deserve all the stings he will get. In striking contrast to his most discreditable work is the volume, on the same subject, by John Stuart Mill, also just from the press. The latter is masterly and exhaustive in its treatment of the relations of the sexes, and as conclusive in its reasoning as it is admirable in its style. No doubt the work will be speedily reprinted in this country from the London editions.



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I am glad to know that you liked my criticism in the Independent upon the Jubilee Concert. The omission of all allusion to the great act of emancipation was certainly most inexcusable; the solution to be found, doubtless, in the fact that Gilmore is an Irishman.

As yet, I get nothing directly from dear George Thompson, but have taken it for granted that he is extremely feeble, as Mr Chesson has informed you. The Testimonial Committee, as now organized in England, is a highly respectable one, and ought to secure a liberal response to its appeal in his behalf; but I fear even the moderate sum aimed at, (£2000,) will not be obtained, though Thomas H. Barker, of Manchester, writes to me that he and others will spare no pains to collect that amount. How I feel about it I need not say.

We are all favored with good health at present, and send much love to you and yours.

Your indebted friend,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. S. May, Jr.